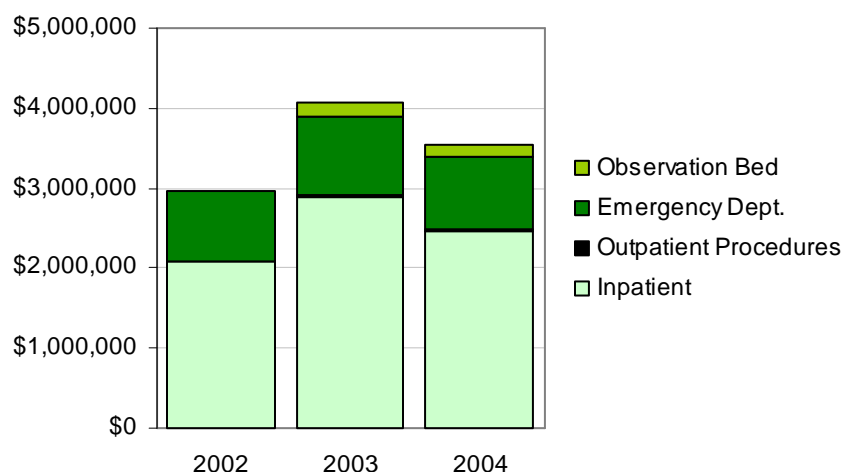


Costs

Improvements in asthma management will result in decreases in the number of hospitalizations and emergency room visits related to asthma. In addition to improving the overall quality of life of those suffering from asthma, these efforts will dramatically decrease health care costs related to asthma.

Hospital charges related to asthma were approximately \$3.5 million in Vermont for 2004. The national estimate for all hospital discharges with a primary diagnosis of asthma was over \$5 billion.

Figure 19. Costs related to asthma hospital visits – Vermont, 2002-2004.



Inpatient hospitalizations make up over two thirds of all hospital-related charges, costing over \$6,000 per visit on average. Emergency room visits make up over one quarter of all hospital-related charges, costing roughly \$400 per visit on average.

DATA TABLES

Table 22. Costs related to asthma hospital visits – Vermont, 2002-2004.

| | <u>2002</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2004</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| In-patient | \$2,074,843 | \$2,897,237 | \$2,454,523 |
| Out-patient | \$7,730 | \$7,153 | \$34,624 |
| Emergency room | \$880,944 | \$985,229 | \$914,517 |
| Observation beds | NA | \$177,294 | \$139,543 |
| Total | \$2,963,517 | \$4,066,913 | \$3,543,207 |

Data source: Hospital Discharge Data